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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DINT-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PREL, CO, PE
SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN PUBLICATION CLAIMS FUJIMORI CAMPAIGN RECEIVED
MEDELLIN CARTEL MONEY

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1. (U) SUMMARY: A COLOMBIAN WEEKLY REPORTS INFORMATION LINKING FORMER FUJIMORI CONFIDANTE VLADIMIR MONTESINOS WITH BOTH CALI AND MEDELLIN CARTEL ACTIVITY FROM 1979 THROUGH THE 1990S, CLAIMING THESE LINKS ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY U.S. AUTHORITIES. IN THE ARTICLE MEDELLIN CARTEL SIBLING ROBERTO ESCOBAR CLAIMS MONTESINOS SOLICITED AND RECEIVED USD 1 MILLION FOR FUJIMORI'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN 1989, AND SUGGESTS FUJIMORI SPOKE PERSONALLY TO CARTEL LEADER PABLO ESCOBAR. ROBERTO ESCOBAR, WHO ACCORDING TO THE MAGAZINE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BUT IS BEING HELD ON NEW CHARGES, EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH USG AUTHORITIES, BUT NOT WITH PERUVIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) LEFT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY MAGAZINE CAMBIO REPORTS IN ITS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2001 200004441

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NOVEMBER 13 EDITION ON LINKS BETWEEN FORMER INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR AND FUJIMORI CONFIDANTE VLADIMIR MONTESINOS' LINKS WITH NARCOTRAFFICKERS. DRAWING ON PERUVIAN, PANAMANIAN AND COLOMBIAN SOURCES, THE ARTICLE REPORTS THAT MONTESINOS (KNOWN AS THE "BLACK MONKEY") FIRST BEGAN REPRESENTING NARCOTRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING PERUVIAN DEMETRIO LIMONIER CHAVEZ (EL VATICANO) WHILE A LAWYER IN PERU IN THE LATE 1970S. LIMONIER, LATER ARRESTED IN COLOMBIA, CLAIMS HE WAS TORTURED BY MONTESINOS WHILE INCARCERATED IN PERU, AND FOR THAT REASON RECANTED CHARGES AGAINST THE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF.

3. (U) ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN THE WEEKLY LINK MONTESINOS WITH VARIOUS NARCOTRAFFICKERS SUCH AS COLOMBIAN EVARISTO PORRAS ARDILA (NOW IN PRISON IN COLOMBIA), THE PERUVIAN NARCOTRAFFICKING CACHIQUE RIVERA ORGANIZATION, LOS CAMELLOS LED BY COLOMBIAN VICENTE WILSON RIVERA (NOW ALLEGEDLY UNDER INVESTIGATION IN PANAMA), AND BORIS FOGUEL (NOW DETAINED IN PANAMA, ACCORDING TO

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THE MAGAZINE).

4. (U) CAMBIO ALSO EXTRACTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBERTO ESCOBAR, SIBLING OF DECEASED MEDELLIN CARTEL LEADER PABLO ESCOBAR. ROBERTO ESCOBAR REMAINS IN CAPTIVITY, REPORTEDLY ALMOST COMPLETELY BLIND AS A RESULT OF A 1993 CAR BOMB ATTEMPT AGAINST THE ITAGUI HOLDING FACILITY WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY DETAINED. IN THE INTERVIEW HE ALLEGES THAT MONTESINOS CONDUCTED BUSINESS WITH THE MEDELLIN CARTEL FROM PERU IN THE 1980S, THEN CAME TO VISIT PABLO ESCOBAR AT HIS VILLA IN 1987. FROM THAT TIME ON, ROBERTO ALLEGES, THE TWO BECAME MORE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS-RELATED TRANSACTIONS. MONTESINOS EVENTUALLY SOLICITED A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM PABLO ESCOBAR AT THE END OF 1989. ACCORDING TO ROBERTO ESCOBAR, HIS BROTHER DONATED USD 1 MILLION TO THE CAMPAIGN. WHILE FUJIMORI DID NOT SOLICIT THE CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY, ROBERTO ESCOBAR MAINTAINS THAT HIS BROTHER SPOKE WITH THE CANDIDATE AS WELL AS WITH MONTESINOS. ROBERTO ESCOBAR CONCEDES THERE IS NO DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO BACK UP HIS CLAIMS BUT CLAIMS HE CAN PRODUCE OTHER WITNESSES. HOWEVER, HE WON'T COOPERATE WITH PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES, BUT WILL CONSIDER COOPERATING WITH USG LAW ENFORCEMENT.

5. (SBU) COMMENT: CAMBIO REPORTS THAT ROBERTO ESCOBAR HAD HOPED TO BE RELEASED FROM PRISON 2 MONTHS AGO, AS A RESULT OF TIME SERVED, PLEA BARGAINS ETC. HOWEVER, ESCOBAR CLAIMS THAT THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE ORDERED HIS CONTINUED DETENTION BASED ON NEW CHARGES FILED BY A FORMER MEDELLIN CARTEL ASSOCIATE. ESCOBAR'S OFFER OF NEW INFORMATION ABOUT MONTESINOS -- WHETHER GENUINE OR FABRICATED -- MAY REFLECT AS MUCH HIS CURRENT JUDICIAL

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SITUATION AS MONTESINOS' CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. A QUICK
POLL OF EMBASSY SOURCES AVAILABLE OVER THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND
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INDICATES NO IN-HOUSE INFORMATION THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE
ESCOBAR'S CLAIMS ABOUT MONTESINOS, BUT WE WILL DO A MORE COMPLETE
REVIEW IN THE COMING DAYS.

PATTERSON

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